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09/892,906	06/28/2001	David A. Jackson	10473.635	1578

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EXAMINER

COURSON, TANIA C

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2859

DATE MAILED: 03/17/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/892,906

Applicant(s)

JACKSON ET AL.

Examiner

Tania C. Courson

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-9, 11, 12, 17-26, 28-39, 44-49, 51-53 and 125-146 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 11, 12, 26, 53, 125, 128-132, 134 and 135 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9, 17-25, 28-31, 36, 37, 44-49, 51, 52, 126, 127, 133 and 136-146 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 32-35, 38 and 39 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on 07 January 2003 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other:

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DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. The election requirement stated in the last office action (Paper No. 3) is hereby repeated, for the second time, and thus made and maintained **FINAL**.

2. It is acknowledged that the Applicant elected Species I (claims 1-12, 17-26, 28-39 and 44-53) of Group I in Paper No. 11. The examiner further acknowledges that claims 1-4, 10 and 50 were cancelled in Paper No. 13 and that new claims 125-146 were added in Paper No. 13.

3. Claims 13-16, 27, 40-43, and 54-124 are maintained withdrawn from further consideration pursuant 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being **no allowable generic** or linking claim.

4. Request for rejoinder of non-elected claims 40-43 and 54, per the Applicant in Paper No. 13, is declined due to claim 28 being neither allowable nor generic.

5. Thus, claims 5-9, 11-12, 17-26, 28-39, 44-49, 51-53 and 125-146 will be further examined in this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 17-25, 126 and 136-145 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hendrix (US 6,115,927).

Hendrix discloses in Figs. 2, 6 and 11-14, an automotive measuring device including the following:

With respect to Claims 17 and 136:

- a) a vision imaging system (Fig. 2, touch screen 22), a target system (Fig. 2, measuring system 10) including;
- b) a target body (Fig. 6, probe 18A);
- c) one or more target elements (Fig. 6, emitters 14) disposed on the target body (Fig. 6) and detectable by the position determination system (Fig. 2, computer 20);
- d) a point definer (Fig. 6, conical member 86) extending from the target body, the point definer including a point capable of being located adjacent the position on the vehicle (Fig. 6);
- e) an attachment device (Fig. 12, connector 44) to stabilize the position of the target body relative to the vehicle and the point relative to the position of the vehicle to be located (Fig. 11);

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- f) wherein the position determination/vision imaging system is configured to determine a location of the target body after detecting the target elements disposed on the target body (column 5, line 64 through column 6, line 1).

With respect to Claims 18-25, 126 and 137-145:

- a) wherein the attachment device further comprises a receiver to which the point definer is attached and a connector that connects with the vehicle (Fig. 12);
- b) wherein the receiver includes a reference feature (Fig. 12, flat end 84) that defines the position of the attachment device relative to the point on the point definer (Fig. 12);
- c) wherein the connector defines a positional relationship between the position on the vehicle to be located and the reference feature (Fig. 11);
- d) wherein the receiver defines a cylindrical recess into which a portion of the point definer is inserted (Fig. 11);
- e) wherein the receiver includes a reference feature (Fig. 12, flat end 84) that defines the position of the connector relative to the point on the point definer (Fig. 12);
- f) wherein the attachment device is adapted to be attached to a strut of a vehicle (column 4, lines 15-17);
- g) wherein the reference feature and the receiver prevent movement of the point definer relative to the attachment device in three axes (Fig. 11);

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- h) wherein the reference feature is a flat plane bounding a portion of the recess (Fig. 12);
- i) further comprising a trigger (Fig. 14, trigger 43) for operating the detection of the target system by the position determination system.

8. Claims 28-30 and 146 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson (US 5,724,743).

Jackson discloses in Figs. 4-5, an apparatus for determining the alignment of motor vehicle wheels including the following:

With respect to Claim 28 and 146:

- a) a target system means (Fig. 4) including a target body means (Fig. 5, target 80);
- b) one or more target elements means (Fig. 5, dots 90) disposed on the target body means (Fig. 5) and detectable by the position determination system (Fig. 4, computer 32);
- c) a point definer means extending from the target body means, the point definer means including a point means capable of being located adjacent the position on the vehicle (Fig. 5);
- d) a vision imaging system means configured to acquire an image of the target body means to generate image information describing geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means disposed on the target body means imaged, and to relate such image

information to predetermined reference information describing known geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means to determine a location and angular orientation of the target body means (column 9, line 41 through column 10, line 61).

With respect to Claims 29:

- a) wherein the point on the point definer is at a known location with respect to the target body (Fig. 5).

With respect to Claims 30:

- a) wherein the point is at a distal end of the point definer (Fig. 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claims 9 and 133 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendrix in view of Strege et al. (US 4,977,524).

Hendrix discloses in Figs. 2, 6 and 11-14, an automotive measuring device including the following:

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- a) a vision imaging system (Fig. 2, touch screen 22) and a target system (Fig. 2, measuring system 10)
- b) a target body (Fig. 6, probe 18A);
- c) one or more target elements (Fig. 6, emitters 14) disposed on the target body (Fig. 6) and detectable by the position determination system (Fig. 2, computer 20);
- d) a point definer (Fig. 6, conical member 86) extending from the target body, the point definer including a point capable of being located adjacent the position on the vehicle (Fig. 6);
- e) a trigger (Fig. 14, trigger 43) for operating the detection of the target system by the position determination/vision imaging system, wherein the trigger is remote from the position determination/vision imaging system (Fig. 14 and column 6, lines 6-9), and;
- f) wherein the position determination/vision imaging system is configured to determine a location of the target body after detecting the target elements disposed on the target body (column 5, line 64 through column 6, line 1).

Hendrix does not disclose a trigger which is positioned on a target body.

Strege et al. teach an electronic measuring gauge for wheel alignment that consists of a trigger (Fig. 3, button E) which is positioned on a target body (Fig. 3, device 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was

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made to further modify the automotive measuring device of Hendrix, so as to include a trigger which is positioned on a target body, as taught by Strege et al., so as to reduce the time and skill required to make vehicle measurements (column 2, lines 34-36).

11. Claims 28-31, 36, 44-49, 51-52, 127 and 146 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendrix in view of Jackson '743.

Hendrix discloses in Figs. 2, 6 and 11-14, an automotive measuring device including the following:

With respect to claim 28 and 146:

- a) a target system means (Fig. 2, measuring system 10) including a target body means (Fig. 6, probe18A);
- b) one or more target elements means (Fig. 6, emitters 14) disposed on the target body means (Fig. 6) and detectable by the position determination system (Fig. 2, computer 20);
- c) a point definer means (Fig. 6, conical member 86) extending from the target body means, the point definer including a point means capable of being located adjacent the position on the vehicle (Fig. 6);

With respect to claims 29-31:

- a) wherein the point on the point definer is at a known location with respect to the target body (Fig. 6);
- b) wherein the point is at a distal end of the point definer (Fig. 6);

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- c) wherein the point is at the vertex of a conical projection at the distal end of the point definer (Fig. 12);

With respect to claim 36:

- a) further comprising a trigger (Fig. 14, trigger 43) for operating the detection of the target system by the position determination system;

With respect to claims 44-49, 51-52 and 127:

- a) further comprising an attachment device (Fig. 12, connector 44) to stabilize the position of the target body relative to the vehicle and the point on the point definer relative to the position of the vehicle to be located (Fig. 11);
- b) wherein the attachment device further comprises a receiver to which the point definer is attached and a connector that connects with the vehicle (Fig. 12);
- c) wherein the receiver includes a reference feature (Fig. 12, flat end 84) that defines the position of the attachment device relative to the point on the point definer (Fig. 12);
- d) wherein the connector defines a positional relationship between the position on the vehicle to be located and the reference feature (Fig. 11);
- e) wherein the receiver defines a cylindrical recess into which a portion of the point definer is inserted (Fig. 11);
- f) wherein the attachment device is adapted to be attached to a strut of a vehicle (column 4, lines 15-17);

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- g) wherein the reference feature and the receiver prevent movement of the point definer relative to the attachment device in three axes (Fig. 11);
- h) wherein the reference feature is a flat plane bounding a portion of the recess (Fig. 12);
- i) wherein the receiver includes a reference feature (Fig. 12, flat end 84) that defines the position of the connector relative to the point on the point definer (Fig. 12).

Hendrix does not disclose a vision imaging system means configured to acquire an image of the target body means to generate image information describing geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means disposed on the target body means imaged, and to relate such image information to predetermined reference information describing known geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means to determine a location and angular orientation of the target body means.

Jackson '743 teaches an apparatus for determining the alignment of motor vehicle wheels that consists of a vision imaging system means configured to acquire an image of the target body means to generate image information describing geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means disposed on the target body means imaged, and to relate such image information to predetermined reference information describing known geometric characteristics and positional interrelationships of the target elements means to determine a location and angular orientation of the target body means (column 9, line 41 through

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column 10, line 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the automotive measuring device of Hendrix, so as to replace the vision imaging system of Hendrix with the measuring system of Jackson '743, trigger which is positioned on a target body, as taught by Strege et al., because both are well known alternate types of aligning systems which will perform the same function, if one is replaced with the other, of providing alignment information.

12. Claim 37 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendrix and Jackson '743, as applied to claims 28-31, 36, 44-49, 51-52, 127 and 146 as stated above, and further in view of Strege et al.

Hendrix and Jackson '743 disclose an automotive measuring device as stated above in paragraph 11. They do not disclose a trigger which is positioned on a target body.

Strege et al. teach an electronic measuring gauge for wheel alignment that consists of a trigger (Fig. 3, button E) which is positioned on a target body (Fig. 3, device 12). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the automotive measuring device of Hendrix and Jackson '743, so as to include a trigger which is positioned on a target body, as taught by Strege et al., so as to reduce the time and skill required to make vehicle measurements (column 2, lines 34-36).

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Allowable Subject Matter

13. Claims 32-35 and 38-39 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

14. Claims 5-8, 11-12, 26, 53, 125, 128-132 and 134-135 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed on January 7, 2003, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

16. The applicant argues that the added limitation to specifically, claim 28, had been amended to avoid the introduction of new matter, although this holds true, the added limitation does not avoid new issue, thus new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

17. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

The prior art cited on PTO-892 and not mentioned above disclose a remote controlled measuring system:

Canovas et al. (US 5,365,668)

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18. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tania C. Courson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00AM to 4:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego Gutierrez, can be reached on (703) 308-3875. The fax number for this Organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 308-7724.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



DIEGO F.F. GUTIERREZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP ART UNIT 2859

TCC
March 12, 2003